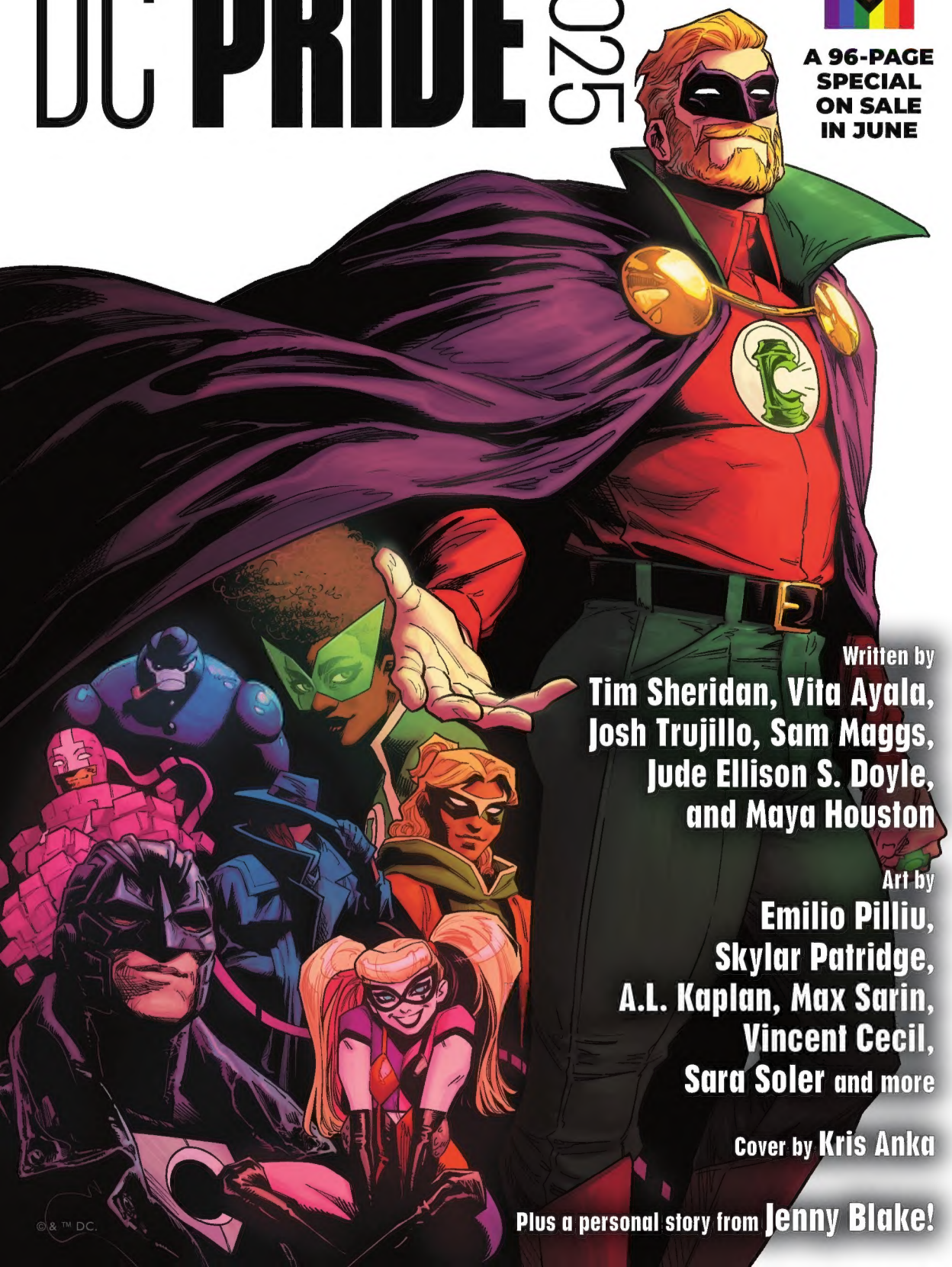
BATMAN: DARK PATTERNS
13+ TEEN
7
BATMAN™
DARK PATTERNS
WATTERS
SHERMAN
FARRELL
PAREIDOLIA PART ONE

THE AWARD-WINNING ANTHOLOGY RETURNS WITH AN ALL-NEW SINGLE-STORY FORMAT, CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AMID CHAOS!

DC PRIDE 2025

A 96-PAGE SPECIAL ON SALE IN JUNE



Written by
Tim Sheridan, Vita Ayala, Josh Trujillo, Sam Maggs, Jude Ellison S. Doyle, and Maya Houston

Art by
Emilio Pilliu, Skylar Patridge, A.L. Kaplan, Max Sarin, Vincent Cecil, Sara Soler and more

Cover by Kris Anka

Plus a personal story from Jenny Blake!

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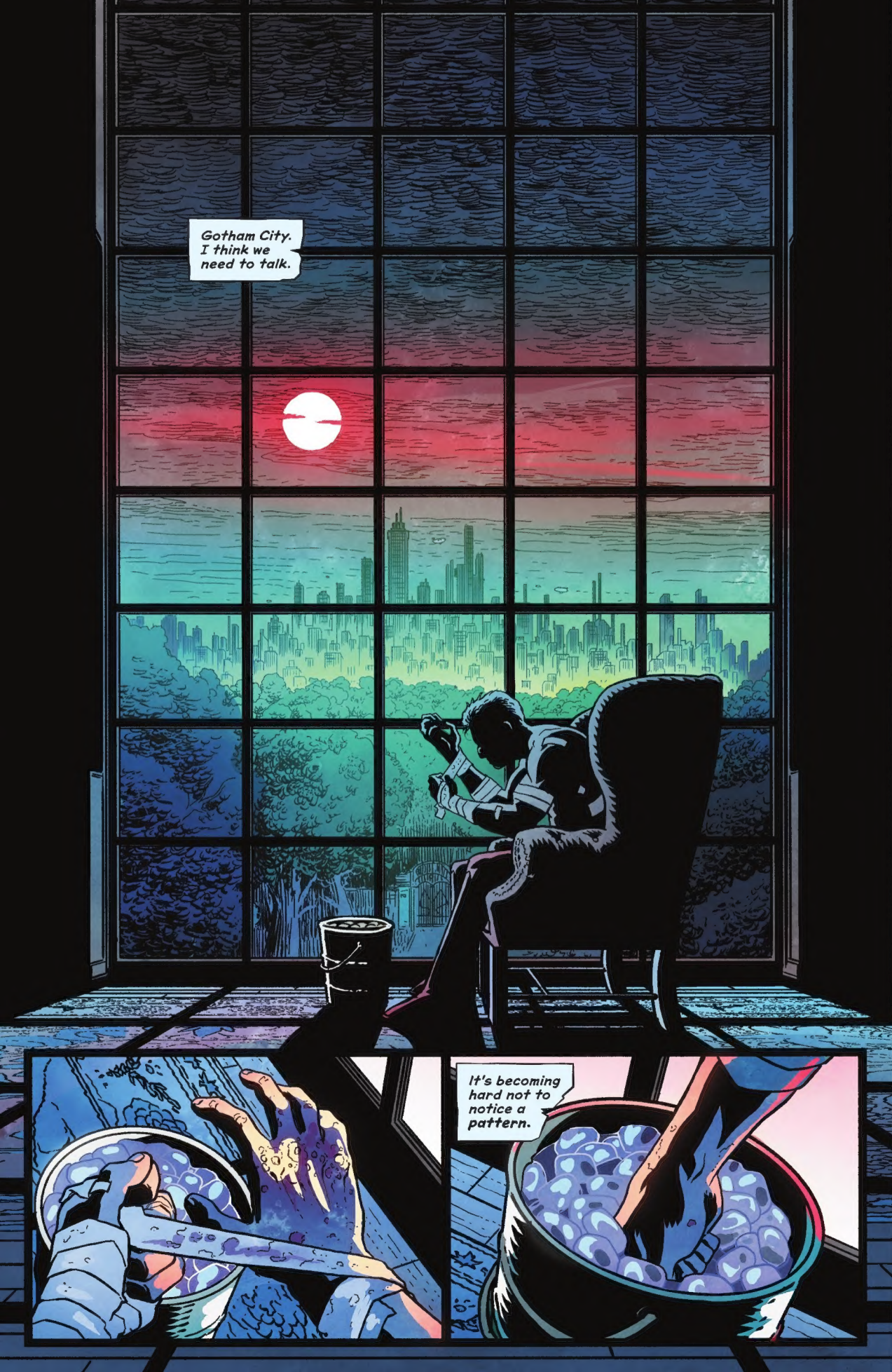
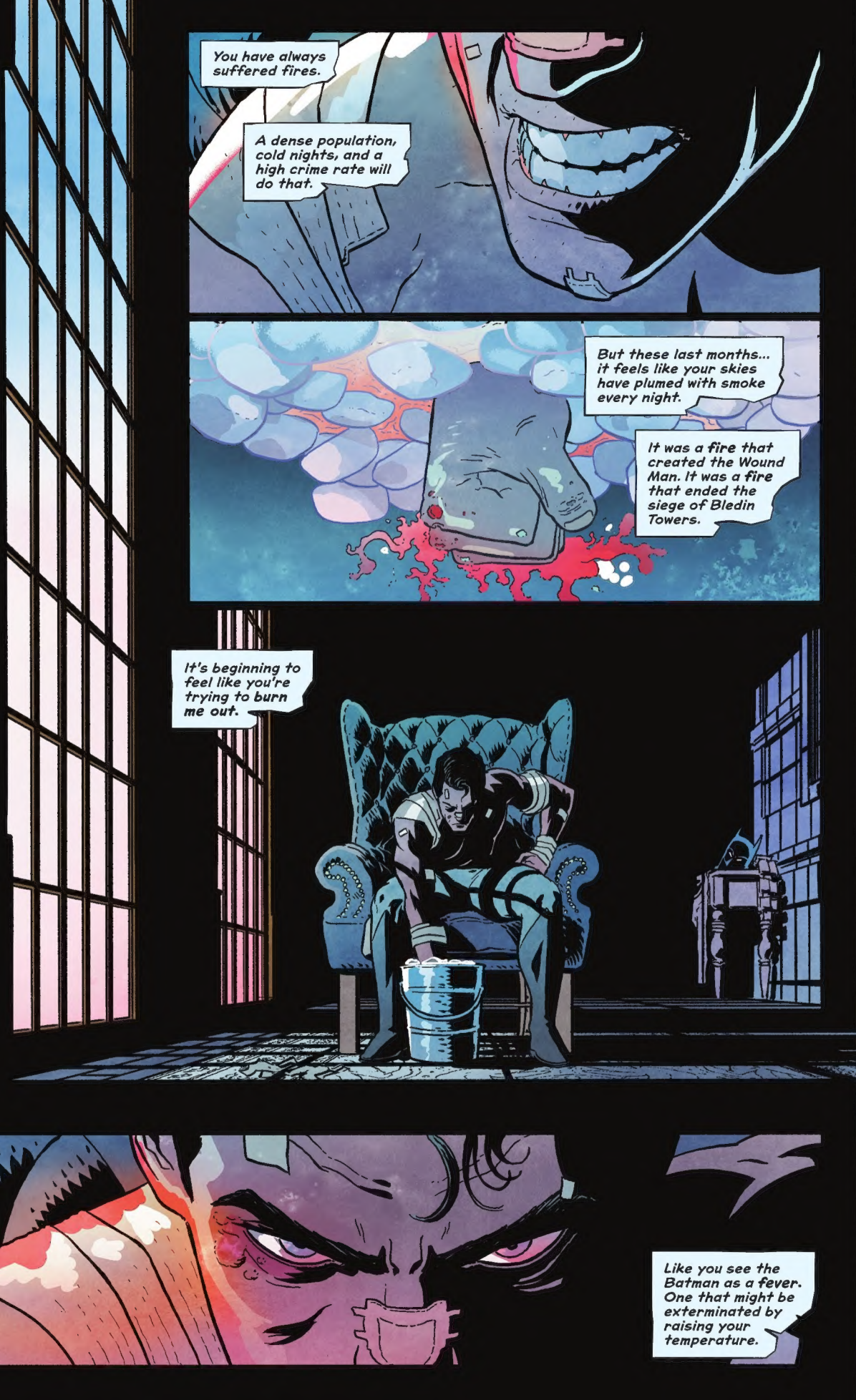

Gotham City. I think we need to talk.
It's becoming hard not to notice a pattern.


You have always suffered fires.
A dense population, cold nights, and a high crime rate will do that.
But these last months... it feels like your skies have plumed with smoke every night.
It was a fire that created the Wound Man. It was a fire that ended the siege of Bledin Towers.
It's beginning to feel like you're trying to burn me out.
Like you see the Batman as a fever. One that might be exterminated by raising your temperature.

Pareidolia is the name for how we perceive patterns where there are none.
Seeing faces in clouds, or the man in the moon.
The first thing we have to be able to recognize as infants is other people. The faces of our caregivers To return a smile, to be able to bond and be protected.
It means that part of our minds can become overactive. It's led to so many of our myths, our legends and gods.
Part of being a detective is being able to see past that pareidolia. To not be fooled by patterns that are not there.
To not assign malevolence to nature or coincidence.
But tonight there is another fire in Gotham...

DC COMICS PRESENTS
BATMAN: DARK PATTERNS
PAREIDOLIA
PART 1

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BOB KANE with BILL FINGER

The cops and firefighters stand around, smoking and talking.
They drag their heels because the fire is in the Rookery.
A neighborhood of Old Gotham, half rebuilt with temporary materials decades ago after a minor quake.
The city never bothered to go back and fix it properly.
The streets here have no names or numbers.
Half the buildings have no clean running water or proper electrical wiring.
Some are simply constructed by the residents, wherever they feel like.
Rooms balanced precariously over alleyways. Overlapping. Tunneling through.
It cannot be navigated by intuition. Only by those who know it.
PA ROBECKS

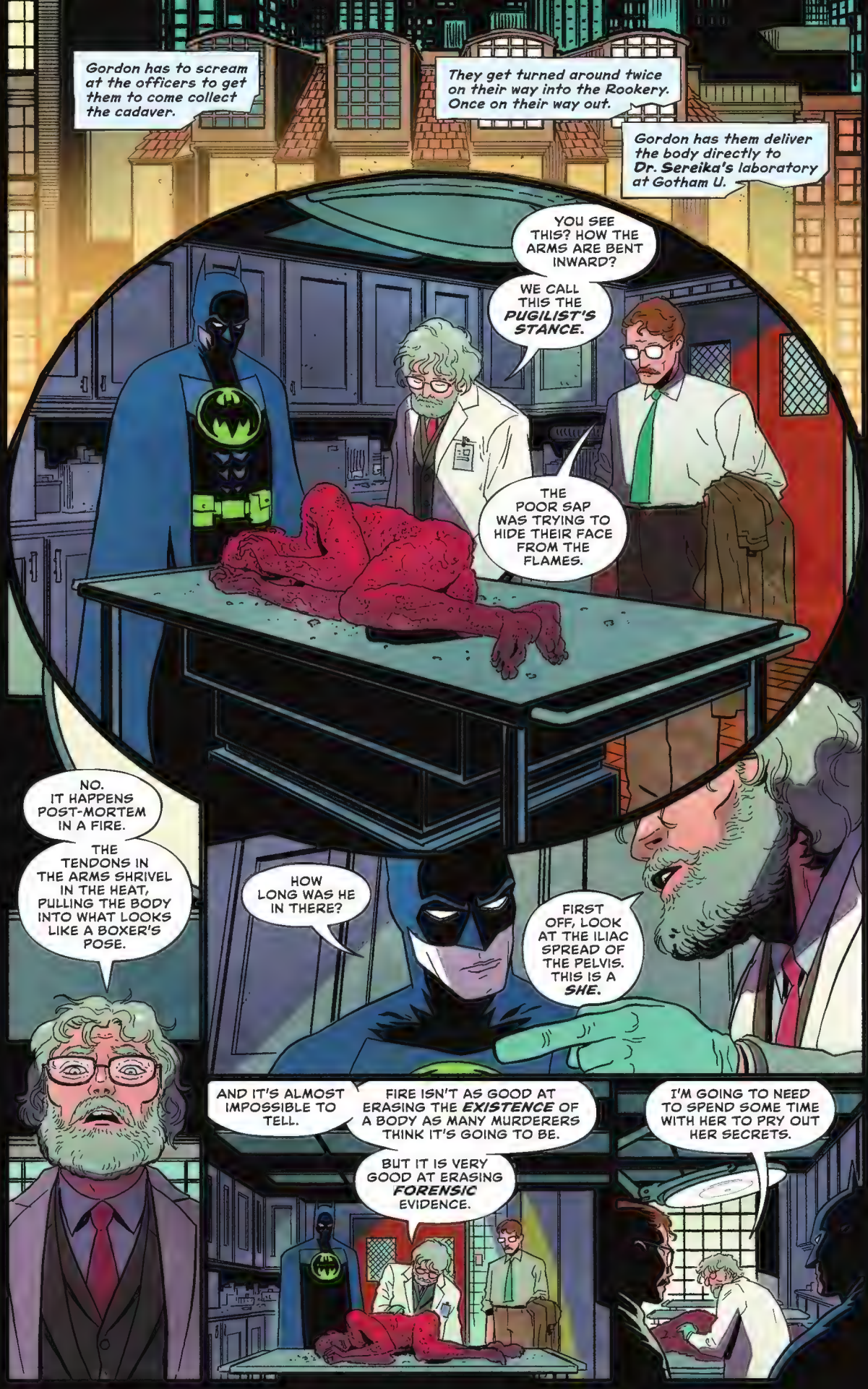
I need guidance.
I'M EATING A RAT.
DID YOU NOT HEAR ME?!
I'M EATING! A RAT!
OKAY.
I HAVE AN ASTROPHYSICS DEGREE.
THE FIRE. WHAT'S THE FASTEST ROUTE THROUGH?

SCHWARZSCHILD COSMOLOGY THEORIZES THAT THE ENTIRE OBSERVABLE UNIVERSE IS THE INSIDE OF A BLACK HOLE.
THAT'S WHY THE UNIVERSE IS EXPANDING.
I NEVER SUBSCRIBED TO THAT THEORY. NOT 'TIL I MOVED INTO THE ROOKERY. "JUST TO GET BACK ON MY FEET."
YOU'RE IN A BLACK HOLE NOW.
JUST FOLLOW YOUR FEET. THE SINGULARITY PULLS EVERYTHING TO THE CENTER IN THE END.
AND NO.
NO?
I SEE YOU LOOKING AT MY RAT.
GET YOUR OWN.

This place is as close to Hell as any I've encountered in Gotham.

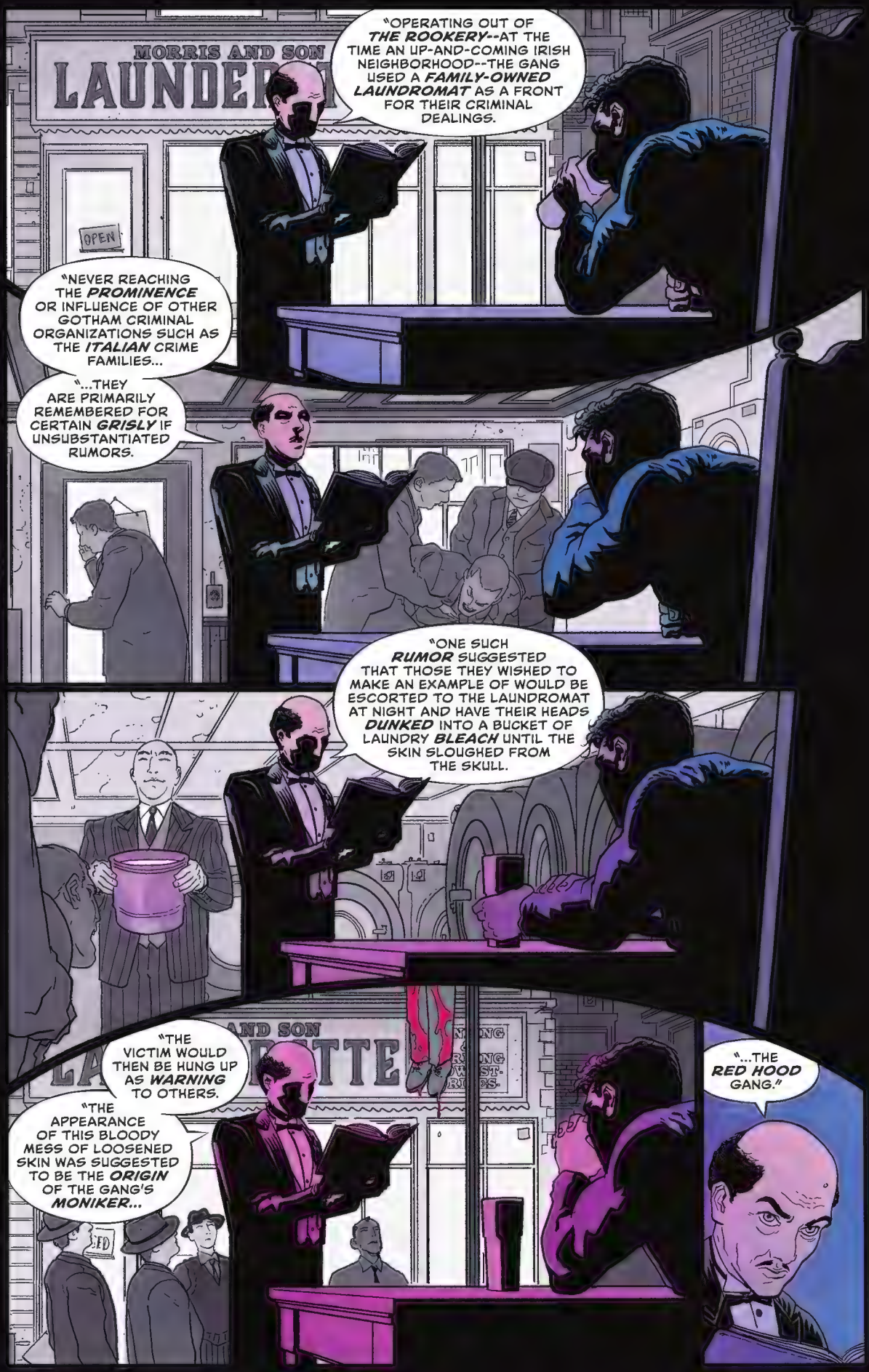
MORRIS AND SON
LAUNDERETTE
AND CLEANER
GORDON.
YOU NEED TO SEND A CSI SQUAD INTO THE ROOKERY.

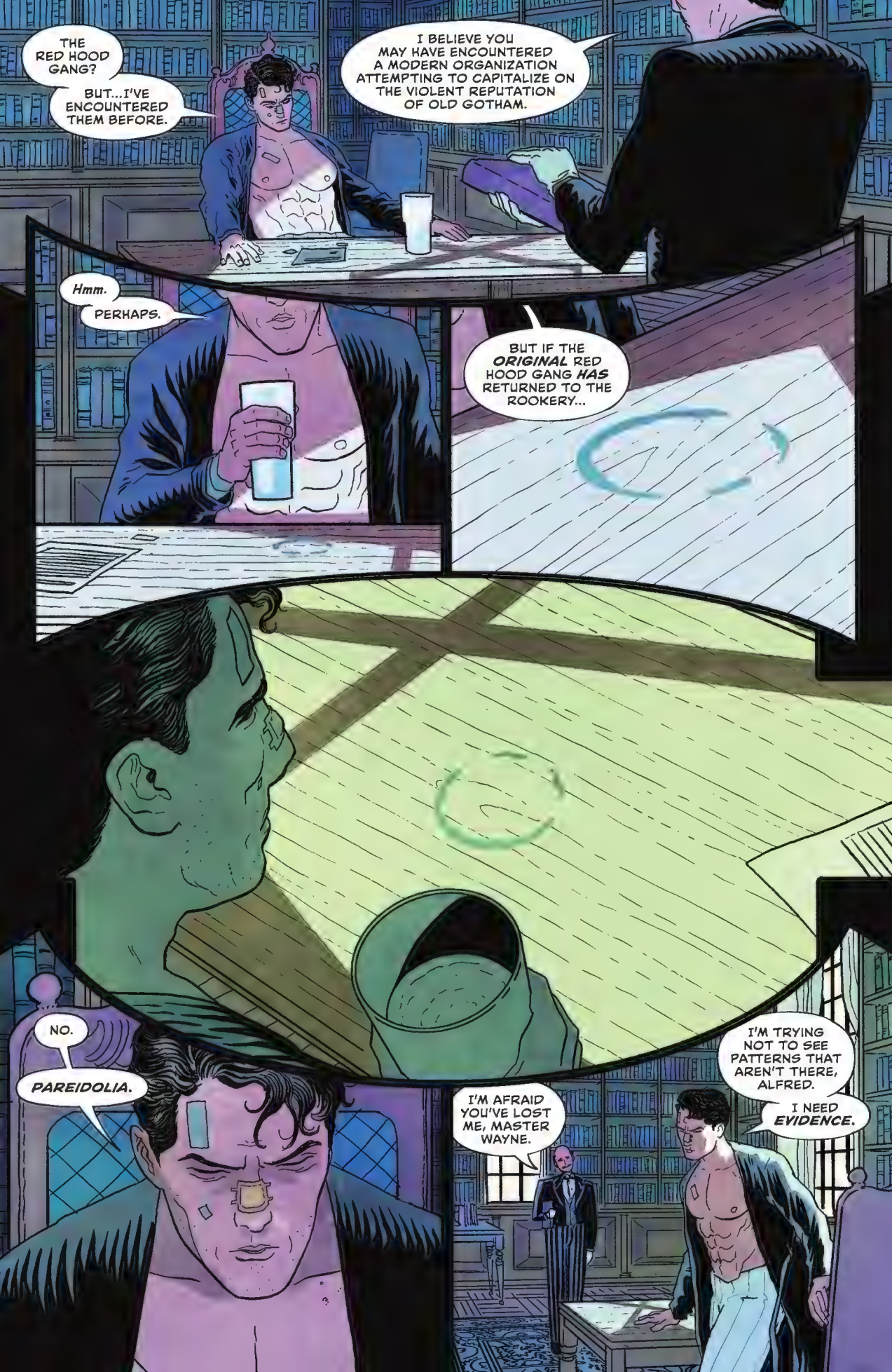
THERE'S A BODY HERE.


Gordon has to scream at the officers to get them to come collect the cadaver.
They get turned around twice on their way into the Rookery. Once on their way out.
Gordon has them deliver the body directly to Dr. Sereika's laboratory at Gotham U.
YOU SEE THIS? HOW THE ARMS ARE BENT INWARD?
WE CALL THIS THE PUGILIST'S STANCE.
THE POOR SAP WAS TRYING TO HIDE THEIR FACE FROM THE FLAMES.
NO. IT HAPPENS POST-MORTEM IN A FIRE.
THE TENDONS IN THE ARMS SHRIVEL IN THE HEAT, PULLING THE BODY INTO WHAT LOOKS LIKE A BOXER'S POSE.
HOW LONG WAS HE IN THERE?
FIRST OFF, LOOK AT THE ILIAC SPREAD OF THE PELVIS. THIS IS A SHE.
AND IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL.
FIRE ISN'T AS GOOD AT ERASING THE EXISTENCE OF A BODY AS MANY MURDERERS THINK IT'S GOING TO BE.
BUT IT IS VERY GOOD AT ERASING FORENSIC EVIDENCE.
I'M GOING TO NEED TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH HER TO PRY OUT HER SECRETS.

GOOD AFTERNOON, MASTER WAYNE.
YOUR WHEY ISOLATE WITH A SEASONAL GREENS REDUCTION IS SERVED.
YOU CAN JUST SAY NUTRITIONAL SHAKE, ALFRED.
IF YOU WILL HAVE ME BLENDING UP SUCH FOUL CONCOCTIONS, YOU MIGHT AT LEAST LET ME LIE TO MYSELF A LITTLE.
A SUCCESSFUL NIGHT?
A FRUSTRATING ONE, ALFRED.
A MURDER IN THE ROOKERY. NO LEADS YET.
I WAS MORE ASKING WHETHER YOU MANAGED TO AVOID BEING EITHER SHOT OR STABBED.
YOU HAVE BEEN BLEEDING ON THE SHEETS AGAIN.
A BODY STUFFED IN A DRYER IN A LAUNDROMAT THAT WAS THEN BURNED DOWN.
A LAUNDROMAT.
WHY DOES THAT SOUND FAMILIAR?
Hmm.
TO THE LIBRARY, BATMAN.

HERE WE ARE.
THE OLD GANGS OF GOTHAM
I REMEMBER PERUSING THIS ONE AT SOME LENGTH.
YOU AREN'T THE ONLY ONE IN THIS MANSION WITH A PREDISPOSITION TO THE MACABRE.
I BELIEVE IT WAS SOMEWHERE AROUND--
Ah, YES.
"ONE OF THE MANY GANGS TO CROP UP DURING THE ***INTERWAR PERIOD***-- WHEN YOUNG MEN RETURNED HOME WITH WEAPONS TRAINING AND UNTREATED ***POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER*** TO FIND THE COUNTRY IN THE DEPTHS OF A POSTWAR RECESSION.
"WITH A ***LACK*** OF CAREER PROSPECTS, MANY TURNED TO THE LUCRATIVE ***CRIMINAL*** UNDERWORLD--STARTING THEIR OWN ORGANIZATIONS TO ***INTIMIDATE*** AND ***EXTORT*** THEIR NEIGHBORS."


MORRIS AND SON
OPEN
"OPERATING OUT OF *THE ROOKERY*--AT THE TIME AN UP-AND-COMING IRISH NEIGHBORHOOD--THE GANG USED A *FAMILY-OWNED LAUNDROMAT* AS A FRONT FOR THEIR CRIMINAL DEALINGS.
"NEVER REACHING THE *PROMINENCE* OR INFLUENCE OF OTHER GOTHAM CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE *ITALIAN* CRIME FAMILIES...
"...THEY ARE PRIMARILY REMEMBERED FOR CERTAIN *GRISLY* IF UNSUBSTANTIATED RUMORS.
"ONE SUCH *RUMOR* SUGGESTED THAT THOSE THEY WISHED TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF WOULD BE ESCORTED TO THE LAUNDROMAT AT NIGHT AND HAVE THEIR HEADS *DUNKED* INTO A BUCKET OF LAUNDRY *BLEACH* UNTIL THE SKIN SLOUGHED FROM THE SKULL.
"THE VICTIM WOULD THEN BE HUNG UP AS *WARNING* TO OTHERS.
"THE APPEARANCE OF THIS BLOODY MESS OF LOOSENED SKIN WAS SUGGESTED TO BE THE *ORIGIN* OF THE GANG'S *MONIKER*...
"...THE *RED HOOD* GANG."


THE RED HOOD GANG?
BUT...I'VE ENCOUNTERED THEM BEFORE.
I BELIEVE YOU MAY HAVE ENCOUNTERED A MODERN ORGANIZATION ATTEMPTING TO CAPITALIZE ON THE VIOLENT REPUTATION OF OLD GOTHAM.
Hmm.
PERHAPS.
BUT IF THE ORIGINAL RED HOOD GANG HAS RETURNED TO THE ROOKERY...
NO.
PAREIDOLIA.
I'M AFRAID YOU'VE LOST ME, MASTER WAYNE.
I'M TRYING NOT TO SEE PATTERNS THAT AREN'T THERE, ALFRED.
I NEED EVIDENCE.

"I NEED TO RETURN TO THE ROOKERY."

OKAY, LADY. TIME TO DIE FOR SATAN.

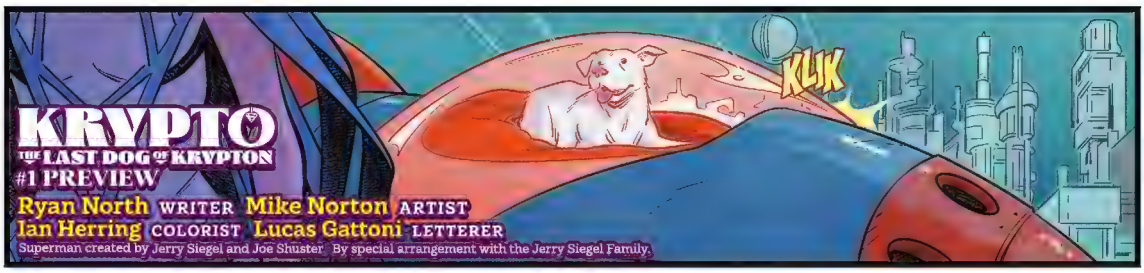
NO.
NO, NOT THERE.

NO CHA--
--AAANCE!
YOU STOPPED RUNNING.
YOU BROKE MY NOSE.

I DON'T CARE.
YOU STOPPED RUNNING. RIGHT AT THE EDGE OF THE ROOKERY. WHY DID YOU STOP?
THE ROOKERY'S A HELL OF A LOT SCARIER THAN YOU.
THEY'RE REAL *WEIRD* IN THERE!
THE RED HOOD GANG. IS THAT WHO YOU'RE AFRAID OF?
WHAT THE *HELL* ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS
GORDON. YOU THERE?
I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF PICKING UP YOUR GIFT.
I DID NOTHING WRONG! I ONLY KILL FOR SATAN'S GLORY!
YOU REALIZE THE HEADACHE YOU CAUSE WHEN YOU LEAVE THEM HIGH UP LIKE THAT?
I'M GUESSING YOU'RE BACK IN THE ROOKERY?
THERE'S NOTHING HERE.
NOTHING AT THE SCENE TO TELL ME ANYTHING.
NO PATTERNS IN THIS ASH.
I'VE JUST COME FROM SEREIKA'S LAB.
HE MIGHT HAVE FOUND SOMETHING. NOT MUCH, BUT HE FOUND BURNS.
THE BODY WAS IN A FIRE.
NO. ON THE SKULL. AS THOUGH THE HEAD WAS EXPOSED TO ACID. SEREIKA SUSPECTS PRE-MORTEM.

I CAN SEE YOU. I CAN SEE YOU WATCHING ME.
ACID...OR BLEACH.
TELL ME WHERE THEY ARE, AND I WILL RID YOU OF THE RED HOOD GANG.
...VERY WELL, THEN. THE GAME'S AFOOT.
TO BE CONTINUED...


KRYPTO
THE LAST DOG OF KRYPTON
#1 PREVIEW
Ryan North WRITER Mike Norton ARTIST
Ian Herring COLORIST Lucas Gattoni LETTERER
Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel Family.
KLIK

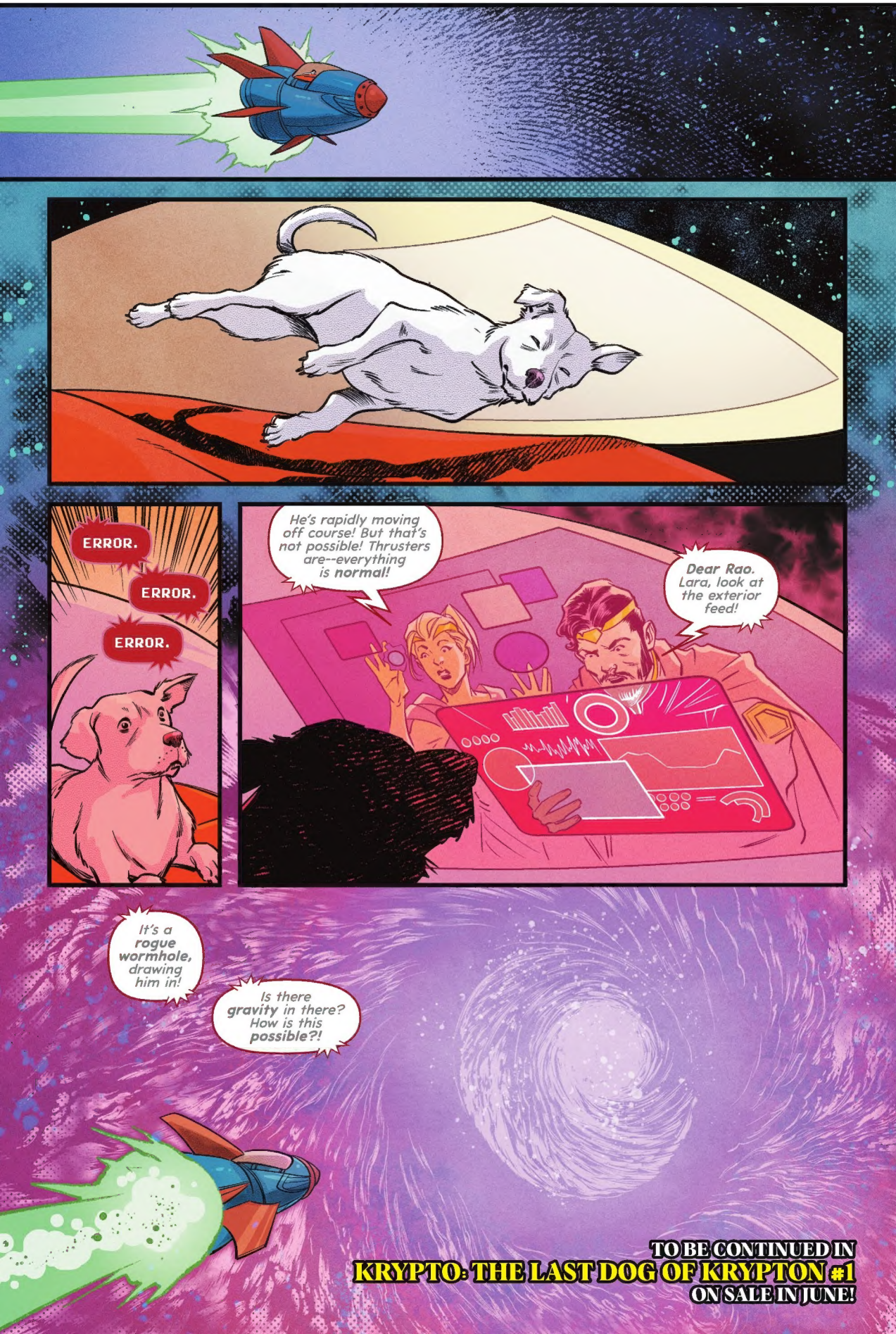
KRYPTO'S calm, reliable, and eager to please. Darling-- he's the perfect test subject. And all uncrewed tests went well.
I know. And if it weren't him, it'd be another dog. I just...
...I hope he's not worried, that's all.

KRYPTO. GOOD BOY. GOOD BOY!
WE'LL BE RIGHT HERE WITH YOU ON THESE MONITORS, KRYPTO. YOU'RE DOING GREAT, BUD.

All systems showing green. Site clear, data recording.
This is the first crewed launch of escape vehicle prototype Alpha-3. Ignition in three...two...one...

KRAKOOOOOM!
KRAKOOOOOM!

GOOD BOY, KRYPTO. IT'S OKAY, WE'RE HERE. YOU'RE DOING GREAT.
Speed is good. Angle of attack within expectations.
Atmospheric escape approaching... approaching...
We're clear! Everything's working perfectly, Lara!
Then-- there's hope! For the first time in so many years...
...there's hope on Krypton.



TO BE CONTINUED IN
KRYPTO: THE LAST DOG OF KRYPTON #1
ON SALE IN JUNE!

LOST IN A STRANGE WORLD,
ONE DOG'S HEART WILL GUIDE HIS WAY HOME.
KRYPTO
THE LAST DOG OF KRYPTON
© & ™ DC.
ALL IN
KRYPTO'S
JOURNEY BEGINS
JUNE
WRITTEN BY
RYAN NORTH
ART BY
MIKE NORTON
VARIANT COVER ART BY
DUSTIN NGUYEN

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

ALL IN

SUPERGIRL

INTERVIEW WITH SOPHIE CAMPBELL

Get ready to take flight with Supergirl, like you've never seen her before! Celebrated writer/artist Sophie Campbell takes us behind the scenes for her exciting new series, where Kara Zor-El returns to her roots and faces off against an unexpected impostor, ushering in a bold new chapter for the Maiden of Might!

Supergirl is back in a big way! What was most exciting for you about continuing Kara's journey in this series?

Other than a short story I did for *Superman Red & Blue* a while back, this is my first time working on Supergirl period, so that is pretty exciting. It's a whole new super-world for me.

The story takes Kara back to Midvale, but with a surprising twist. What themes were you most excited to explore in her journey?

One of my inspirations for having Kara head back to Midvale is those types of romcoms where a character has to return to their hometown after living in the big city for a while. At first, they expect to have outgrown their quaint little town, but after looking at it in a different way they find that maybe there's still something to love about their old home. I don't know if that's a theme or just me laying out the plot, but that was my original idea. Maybe I could phrase the theme like "appreciating something after looking at it through a different lens."

What can you tease about Supergirl's mysterious new impostor?

I think the cat's already out of the bag by now: It's Lesla-Lar, diabolical genius inventor fueled by envy and resentment who is determined to take everything Kara has for herself!

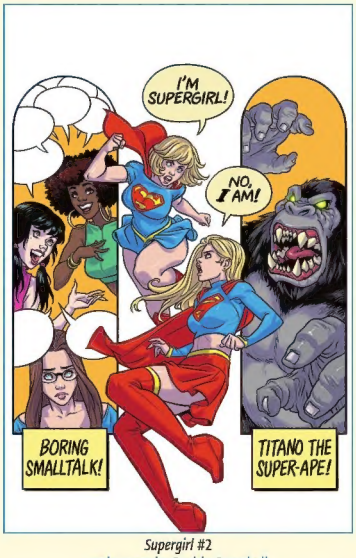
What are the exciting opportunities and challenges in both writing and drawing this series?

It's a big challenge simply managing all the work. I came up in the industry writing and drawing graphic-novel-format books, so it's nothing new for me but doing so on a monthly series is its own sort of challenge, both fun and intimidating. I think the main thing I enjoy about doing it all myself is the fluid nature of the work process. I'm able to tweak things as I go along, change things from the script, or even rearrange moments and scenes depending on what feels right in the moment.

For new and returning readers, why is this series the perfect place to start?

Because it's going to be awesome!

DON'T MISS *SUPERGIRL*, ON SALE MONTHLY!



Supergirl #2
main cover by Sophie Campbell

Costume design
by Stanley "Artgerm" Lau

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